

STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR THE YEAR  
1949

ROGER & RENNICK.  
PRINTERS, WIGAN.



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## *SANITARY INSPECTOR AND PUBLIC CLEANSING OFFICER :*

B. L. PARKER, A.R.San. I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.,

# *Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council*

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JULY, 1950.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report upon the health of Standish for the year 1949.

As in previous years it has been compiled in the manner indicated by the Ministry of Health Circular.

I wish to thank you for the very kind interest taken in the matters affecting the health and sanitation of the Urban District. I would also like to extend my thanks to Mr. B. L. Parker and other members of the staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Estimated Civilian Population mid-1949 .....	8,992
Acreage of District .....	3,266
Number of Inhabited Houses .....	2,670
Rateable Value .....	£45,048
Product of a Penny Rate .....	£180/4/1

## VITAL STATISTICS

<b>BIRTHS.</b>	M.	F.	Totals
Live Births — Legitimate .....	64	59	123
— Illegitimate .....	3	2	5
Live Birth-Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			14.2
Live Birth-Rate for England and Wales ...			16.7
Still Births — Legitimate .....	—	2	2
— Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births is 15.			
Number of Still Births was 2 compared with 2 in 1948.			
Live Birth-Rate per 1,000 of estimated population was 14.2 compared with 14.2 in 1948.			
Total Number of Live Births in 1949 was 128 compared with 127 in 1948.			
Live Birth-Rate: Mean of 5 years 1944-1948 .....			18.2
Year 1948 .....			14.2
Year 1949 .....			14.2
Decrease in 1949 on 5 years' average .....			4.0
Increase or Decrease in 1949 on the previous year .....			Nil

## DEATHS.

There were 113 deaths—56 males and 57 females—compared with 92 deaths—50 males and 42 females—in 1948.

Death-Rate per 1,000 of estimated population .....	12.6
Death-Rate for England and Wales .....	11.7
Mean of 5 years 1944-1948 .....	11.7
Year 1948 .....	10.3
Year 1949 .....	12.6

Increase in 1949 on 5 years' average .....	0.9
Increase in 1949 on the previous year .....	2.3

There were no deaths from Puerperal Causes during 1949, consequently the Maternal Mortality for 1949 was Nil.

**CANCER:** Twenty deaths occurred in 1949—9 males and 11 females—compared with 8 deaths—4 males and 4 females—in 1948.

Death-Rate from Cancer per 1,000 of estimated population ...	2.22
Mean of 5 years 1944-1948 .....	1.23
Year 1948 .....	0.89
Increase in 1949 on 5 years' average ...	0.99
Increase in 1949 on the previous year	1.33

**INFANTILE DEATHS:** Six deaths of Infants under 1 year of age occurred in 1949—5 males and 1 female—compared with 5 deaths—1 male and 4 females—in 1948.

With the exception of one all were legitimate.

Death-Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births .....	47
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	41
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	200
The Death Rate for England and Wales of all Infants per 1,000 live births was 32.	

Mean of 5 years 1944-1948 .....	36
Year 1948 .....	39
Year 1949 .....	47
Increase in 1949 on 5 years' average ...	11
Increase in 1949 on previous year .....	8

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES:—	M.		F.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers .....	—	...	—
Cerebro-spinal fever .....	—	...	—
Scarlet Fever .....	—	...	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	...	—
Diphtheria .....	—	...	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .....	1	...	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	—	...	—
Syphilitic Diseases .....	1	...	—
Influenza .....	—	...	3
Measles .....	—	...	—
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	—	...	—
Acute infective Encephalitis .....	—	...	—
Cancer (all sites) .....	9	...	11
Diabetes .....	1	...	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions .....	8	...	8
Heart diseases .....	17	...	25
Other diseases of circulatory system .....	—	...	—
Bronchitis .....	3	...	3
Pneumonia .....	6	...	—
Other respiratory diseases .....	1	...	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .....	—	...	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	—	...	—
Appendicitis .....	—	...	—
Other digestive diseases .....	—	...	—
Nephritis .....	—	...	1
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis .....	—	...	—
Other maternal causes .....	—	...	—
Premature birth .....	2	...	1
Congenital malformation-birth injuries and infantile diseases .....	2	...	1
Suicide .....	—	...	—
Road traffic accidents .....	2	...	—
Other violent causes .....	1	...	—
All other causes .....	2	...	3
	—		—
All causes ...	56	...	57

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens are sent to the Bacteriological Department of the Wigan Infirmary for examination. Use is also made of the facilities of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Manchester and Liverpool. These arrangements have proved quite satisfactory.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The duty of providing an Ambulance Service devolves upon the Lancashire County Council as the Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act. At the present time the Ambulance Service for Standish is provided by Wigan County Borough Council under an agency agreement with the Lancashire County Council. The service is quite satisfactory.

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## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Ninety-four cases of Infectious Disease were notified to the Department during the year compared with 194 during 1948.

Perusal of the accompanying table will shew the incidence of the various diseases and the age groups affected.

There were 54 cases of Measles notified and the majority of these occurred in the 1-5 years age groups and during the first 3 months of the year. There were 25 cases of Scarlet Fever notified scattered over the whole 12 months and the majority of the cases were school-children.

An attempt was made to swab all cases of scarlet fever of school age nursed at home before returning to school.

There were no cases of Food Poisoning notified during the year.

### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Particulars of the numbers of pre-school and school-children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation during the year are:—

Pre-school children: 93.      School-children: 80.

In addition 280 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1949.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED AGE PERIODS — YEARS										Total Deaths	
		0	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 and over	age unknown	Hospital admissions	deaths
Scarlet Fever .....	25	—	2	1	13	6	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (exc. Rubella)	54	2	20	15	16	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	8	1	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (Primary & Influenzal)	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Dysentery .....	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
Totals .....	94	3	26	18	31	7	5	1	3	—	—	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS

The following notifications were received under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949

		New Cases				Deaths			
Age Periods		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
1	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
2	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
5	...	—	—	—	1	...	—	—	—
10	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
15	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
20	...	1	2	—	—	...	—	1	—
25	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
35	...	—	1	—	1	...	—	—	—
45	...	1	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
55	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
65	...	1	—	—	—	...	1	—	—
75 and upwards		—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
Totals		3	3	—	2	...	1	1	—

All cases were notified before death.

Death Rate from tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	0.22
Mean of 5 years 1944-1948 .....	0.17
Year 1948 .....	0.22
Year 1949 .....	0.22
Increase in 1949 on 5 years' average .....	0.05
Increase or decrease in 1949 on the previous year .....	Nil

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken under Section 47 of this Act during the year.

# SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

## WATER SUPPLY

The Council have their own plant (Bell's Mechanical Filters) for filtering and chlorinating the water supply.

The water for domestic and trade purposes comes from the reservoir at Anglezarke and is purchased from Liverpool Corporation. A special industrial supply comes from Thirlmere and is purchased from Manchester Corporation.

Before distribution in the district the domestic water supply receives the following treatment:—

Addition of chemicals: Alumina—I gr. per gallon.  
Soda Ash—I gr. per gallon.

Filtration and chlorination.

The special industrial supply is distributed without treatment. Both domestic and industrial supplies are constant.

The water is of good soft Upland Surface Water in every way well suited for drinking and all domestic purposes.

All houses in the district are supplied from public water mains direct to houses.

Three samples of treated water were taken during the year for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis, the results of which are shewn below.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION	April	July	Dec.
(1) Presumptive Coliform Count.—			
Total number B. Coli. per 100 ml.	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Total number of colonies developing on Agar after 48 hours at 37 C.—			
(a) Per 1.0 ml sample .....	Less than 30	Nil	Less than 30
(b) Per 0.1 ml sample .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Total number of colonies developing on Agar after 72 hours at 20 C.—			
(a) Per 1.0 ml sample .....	Less than 30	Nil	Less than 30
(b) Per 0.1 ml sample .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Comment .....	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS (Results—Parts/Million)—

	May	July	Dec.
Total solid matter in solution .....	103.2	96.0	110.4
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 mins. ....	0.40	0.07	0.84
Oxygen required to oxidise in 4 hours .....	1.07	0.24	1.80
Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N. ....	0.01	0.01	0.01
Albuminoid nitrogen as N. ....	0.04	0.01	0.04
Nitrous nitrogen as N. ....	None	None	None
		minute	minute
Nitric nitrogen as N. ....	traces	trace	trace
Combined Chlorine .....	13.8	14.0	14.5
Total Hardness .....	40	37	38
p. H. Value .....	6.6	6.8	6.1

The water supply is consistently reported upon as a good soft upland surface water, free from organic pollution and in every way quite fit for drinking and domestic purposes.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. B. L. Parker, Sanitary Inspector and Public Cleansing Officer, has kindly contributed the following report:—

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Butchers' Shops .....	12	Conservancy Closets .....	24
Bakehouses .....	9	Refuse Disposal Sites .....	26
Fish and Chip Shops .....	6	Watercourses .....	24
Ice-Cream Vendors .....	37	Re : dustbins .....	94
Cafe and Canteens .....	6	Pigsties .....	13
Public Houses .....	3	Housing Acts .....	86
Other Food Premises .....	66	Overcrowding .....	4
Dairies .....	46	Re : Housing Applications ....	17
Hawkers .....	14	Infectious Disease Inquiries ...	32
Cowsheds .....	41	Verminous Premises .....	21
Factories (Mech.) .....	14	Interviews with Owners, etc.	104
Factories (Non-Mech.) .....	1	Re-inspections of Notices .....	197
P.H.A. Workplaces .....	5	Rodent Control .....	174
Shops under Shops Act .....	178	Public Halls and Cinemas ....	3
Investigation of Complaints .....	131	Smoke Abatement .....	1
Inspections and tests drainage ...	170	Various Causes .....	110
School Sanitary Accommodation	8		
Septic Tanks and Cesspools .....	21	Total number of inspections :	1,698

Perusal of the foregoing figures will show that considerable attention was again focussed on drainage works of existing buildings principally where obstructions had occurred and revealed

defects. It is, however, pleasing to record that proper and careful supervision of repair work is reducing drainage complaints to a noticeable extent.

Inspections of the sanitary accommodation at the various schools in the district revealed conditions which could not be regarded as satisfactory particularly where the education of young children is concerned, in fact, some of the conditions found would make very bad object lessons for school-children.

Two watercourses on the western side of Preston Road attracted attention during the year due to their flooding private land and dwellings, a misfortune, which, it is understood, had regularly occurred during very wet weather for years past. Success attended the efforts in getting the outfalls of these watercourses cleared and no further trouble is anticipated.

**Defects or Nuisances :** No. Discovered, 243; No. Abated, 235.

**Number of Notices Served :** Informal, 159; Statutory 2.

**Legal Proceedings** — No. 1. **Result :** Work executed by L.A. in default.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Except for the following all premises in the district have water closets :—

Privy middens .....	13 (mostly on farms)
Pail Closets (including chemical closets) .....	69
	(including 21 houses at Gidlow).
Waste Water Closets .....	2

During the year one pail closet was converted to the water carriage system.

At the end of the year a scheme for sewerage the 21 houses at Gidlow to a separate sewage disposal plant was proceeding in order to make possible the conversion of the 21 pail closets to water closets.

Not many of the remaining conservancy closets can be converted to the water carriage system owing to the absence of drainage

facilities and the present day cost of installing small individual sewage disposal plant being prohibitive.

In the case of those closets where conversion would appear reasonable and practicable a circular letter was sent to the owners concerned requesting their co-operation and advising them of the Council's grant of £4 per conversion. One wonders if the amount of this grant is large enough to be attractive, bearing in mind the high cost of labour and materials of the present day.

HOUSING.

STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

- (i) By the Local Authority—
  - Traditional Permanent Houses ..... 16
- (ii) By other Local Authorities ..... Nil
- (iii) By other Bodies or Persons ..... 4

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..... 110
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 256
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..... Nil
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... Nil
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... 7
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..... 103

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices: Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ..... 102
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—
  - (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
    - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..... Nil
    - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
      - (a) By owners ..... Nil
      - (b) By local authority in default of owners ..... Nil
  - (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—
    - (1) Number of dwelling -houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... Nil
    - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
      - (a) By owners ..... Nil
      - (b) By local authority in default of owners ..... Nil
  - (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
    - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... Nil
    - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... Nil
  - (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	Nil
4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding:—		
(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	6
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein .....	11
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .....	42
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	3
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	2
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	10

**HOUSING :** This important sphere of public health work received considerable attention during the year and repairs of a major and minor character were carried out to many dwelling-houses in the district. Active mining subsidence caused considerable damage to certain properties and much discomfort to the occupants.

At the end of the year there were 357 applicants for Council housing accommodation and investigation into the circumstances of sixteen of this number was made by the department and reports prepared for the guidance of the Committee. It is only by a practical investigation at the home that one can obtain a true picture of the conditions under which people live and thereby assess correctly their housing need.

## DISINFESTATION

The following premises were disinfested during the year for the reason stated:—

Cockroach infestation : 2 whole houses.

Spraying and dusting with D.D.T. solution and powder proved to be highly effective.

### DISINFECTION

The following premises were disinfected during the year for the reasons stated:—

After Tuberculosis: 8 rooms.

After Scarlet Fever : 23 rooms.

After general illness : 2 rooms.

Formaldehyde was used for the purpose.

### RODENT CONTROL

One part-time operator is employed on rodent control work. In addition to search work the following premises were treated for infestations :—

Business premises : 11.

Private houses : 21.

L.A. Properties : 4.

The sewers and sewage disposal works were also systematically treated as were the refuse disposal sites. Rodent control work is carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector in strict conformity with the methods advised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

### KEEPING OF ANIMALS

A variable number of pigsties were in use during the year mostly in connection with Self Suppliers of Pigs Scheme—Domestic Pig Keepers. All are of a reasonable standard of construction and no action by this department was necessary.

### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The need for new and adequate public conveniences planned on modern lines for both sexes still exists. The holiday season with its almost continuous stream of traffic through the district more than emphasises the urgency of this need. The Council have, however, definite plans in being for new public conveniences.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Continuous pollution takes place from both public and private sewage disposal plant. Efforts have been made to reduce the pollution from private premises. The pollution from the public sewage disposal plant can only be mitigated by the provision of new and extended works now envisaged.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Standish has a water carriage system to which most houses in the district are connected.

The Local Authority maintains two sewage disposal works— at Arbour Lane and Chorley Road — and two sewage farms — at Fairhurst House and Langtree. Three of these are grossly overloaded and cannot deal efficiently with the increased influx of recent years. Extensive repairs to the works are also required.

A scheme for the improvement of the sewerage and sewage disposal systems was in an advanced state of preparation at the outbreak of war. Further consideration is now being given to this although progress is delayed by uncertainty as to the areas of future development due to the district being seriously affected throughout by active mining subsidence.

## CAMPING SITES

There are no camping sites in the area.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

General observations were made during the year. Pollution of the atmosphere from manufactory and domestic chimneys takes place.

There are 9 factory and works chimneys within the Urban District, but no Byelaw is in force concerning emissions therefrom.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND BATHING POOLS

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools open to the public in the district.

## SHOPS ACTS.

There are 139 shops of various kinds within the Urban District. Assistants are employed in 38 shops and young persons in 14 of this number.

During the year 178 shops inspections were made and any offences discovered were dealt with satisfactorily by informal action.

The Sanitary Inspector is delegated Inspector of Shops by the Lancashire County Council as regards certain provisions enforceable by that Authority.

## FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Number and particulars of Factories on Register at 31st December, 1949, as per Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572.

Factories (Mech.) .....	18
Factories (Non-Mech.) .....	5
Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction ...	4
Number of Inspections made .....	15
Number of cases in which defects were found .....	1
Number of cases in which defects were remedied .....	1
Number of written notices served .....	1

There are no out-workers within the Urban District. Workplaces coming within the provisions of Section 46 of the P.H.A. 1936 are 22 in number.

## LICENSED PREMISES

Details of Licensed Premises within the district are:—

Public Houses .....	13	Cinemas .....	1
---------------------	----	---------------	---

Systematic inspections are made of the sanitary accommodation at these premises and reports are prepared and submitted to the General Annual Licensing Meeting of the Justices when considering the granting or renewal of licences under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, and it is pleasing to record that in this matter full co-operation exists between the Licensing Justices and the Council.

Beer cellars and arrangements for serving beer receive attention at the same time.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A total of 153 inspections of food premises and distributors' vehicles of all kinds was made during the year and every opportunity of advising food handlers on matters of hygiene was used to advantage. In this connection, an advisory leaflet, "Hints for Food Handlers," was distributed to all food handlers in the district by whom it was well received. Contraventions of food laws were revealed from time to time, but were remedied without resort to Statutory action.

All slaughtering of animals for human food continues to be carried out under Government Control at Wigan and meat distribution takes place from there.

Seventy-three pig carcasses and organs were inspected under the Self Suppliers of Pigs Scheme—Domestic Pig Keepers — and localised tuberculosis in one pig was the only abnormality found.

Ten samples of ice-cream and three of water-ices were procured during the year for provisional Methylene Blue grading, and, where results were unsatisfactory, a thorough investigation of methods of manufacture followed. Copies of the Lancashire County Council Ice-Cream Codes of Practice were circulated to all concerned in the ice-cream trade.

The Council has resolved to adopt the Ministry of Food Model Byelaws: Series 1.

The following foods were inspected and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Canned tomato pulp (various brands) .....	4	9	1	4	0
Sausages, (tomato-vegetable and beef) .....			3	15	8
Pigs' Organs (1 whole set) .....			1	2	0
Canned Foods (various) .....				11	13

Total weight: 4 tons 10 cwts. 2 qtrs. 5 lbs. 5 ozs.

## FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied the following details:—

A total of 47 samples was obtained, made up of 20 samples of milk and 27 samples of other commodities.

With the exception of 4 samples (3 of milk and 1 of gravy browning) all proved genuine. Appropriate action was taken in respect of the four deficient samples.

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Licences to slaughter animals have been issued to seven slaughter-men under the above act.

## MILK AND DAIRIES.

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, which came into force on the 1st October, 1949, brought about considerable changes in milk and dairies administration and the following statistics have been compiled to shew the position under the new administration.

Milk Producers in district .....	21
including Accredited Producers .....	1
including Producer-Retailers .....	12
including Producer-Wholesalers .....	9
Milk Producers outside district retailing in district .....	6

### **Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949—**

Number of Dairies on Register .....	1
Number of Milk Distributors on register .....	12

### **Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949—**

Dealers' Licences issued—Tuberculin Tested Milk .....	1
Supplementary Licences issued—Tuberculin Tested Milk .....	2

## Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949—

Dealers' Licences issued—Pasteurised Milk .....	3
Dealers' Licences issued—Sterilised Milk .....	9
Supplementary Licences issued—Pasteurised Milk .....	2
Supplementary Licences issued—Sterilised Milk .....	2

Eighty-seven inspections of cowsheds and dairies were carried out during the year and time spent on advisory work in connection with clean and safe milk production.

### Milk Sampling:—

During the year 52 samples of milk were taken for the biological test and all proved negative. Sixty samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination (Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests) of which 41 were satisfactory and 19 unsatisfactory.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The refuse collection staff consists of seven full-time employees including the foreman. As the year proceeded the need for additional labour to help with the increased output of refuse became more apparent and an extra man had to be employed for regular periods.

The month of January saw the arrival of the long awaited "Dennis" 12 cubic yard side-loading vehicle to replace the worn-out "S. and D." 12 cubic yard rear-loading freighter, which was sold. The new "Dennis," together with the "Scammell" 6 cubic yard side-loader collected the refuse, including the emptying of pail closets, from the whole district, and, as far as possible, this service operated on a weekly frequency.

With few exceptions no charge was made for the removal of trade refuse although shops and business premises in the district had a collection twice a week.

A Test Weighing of refuse revealed that during the winter months an average of 10 tons of refuse was removed from the dis-

trict every day. The inferior quality of unrationed coals increased considerably the work of the Cleansing Department.

With the permission of the National Coal Board the refuse was disposed of down the North Prospect and south Swire disused pit shafts after being suitably adapted for the purpose. Disposal of refuse at Standish-Lower-Ground was by controlled tipping.

The need for a long-term refuse disposal area to receive the ever-increasing quantity of refuse from the district is an urgent one and research is progressing to meet this need.

During the year some improvements to accommodation were carried out at the Grove Lane Depot and it is hoped that each year will mark progress in this direction.

The number of new dustbins provided in the district during the year was considerable, but it is anticipated that the recent legal controversy regarding responsibility (owner or occupier) for providing a dustbin may retard further progress. It is the practice to require the provision of the "Standard" dustbin as the use of standardised refuse receptacles assists the service in no small degree.

Salvage was collected at the same time as the refuse and kept separately for baling and subsequent despatch to the board mills. The Council is fortunate in being able to continue to sell its salvage to Thames Board Mills Ltd. on a contractual basis when many other local authorities have no market for it. The workmen are rewarded 10 per cent. of all income from the sale of salvage as an incentive to increased collections.

The income from the sale of salvage during the year was:—

Waste Paper...	50 tons	4 cwts.	0 qtrs.	...	£303	0	5½
Rags & Scrap	3 tons	3 cwts.	3 qtrs.	...	£26	6	5
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Totals .....	53 tons	7 cwts.	3 qtrs.	...	£329	6	10½
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The very nature of the Public Cleansing service renders it most susceptible to an undue share of criticism by some members of the public who are not always mindful of the many contingencies with which it has to contend.

The cleansing of non-County roads is carried out under the direction and supervision of the Surveyor.







